

Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War

Korea 1950 – 1953

60th Anniversary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois and the Korean War, November 1951

The State of Illinois is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War by supplying information each month about the state's involvement in the conflict.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Korean Memorial Association, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are sponsoring "Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War" along with media partners the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. For more information, visit www.Illinois-History.gov or www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinoisans killed in action in Korea, November 1951 **By county of residence**

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense records)

Carroll	PFC Earl E. Bender, Army, November 23.
Christian	Cpl. Edward Cearlock, Army, November 25.
Coles	PFC James R. Schulte, Marines, November 1. Cpl. Maurice D. Warren, Army, November 5.
Cook	Pvt. Eugene A. Barrica, Army, November 18. Pvt. Henry Brisco, Jr., Army, November 26. PFC George Carroll, Army, November 14. Cpl. Edward J. Cebula, Army, November 25. Pvt. William T. Davis, Jr., Army, November 6. Sgt. Carl Dodro, Army, November 6. PFC Robert W. Forsythe, Army, November 5. Sgt. William C. Gabos, Army, November 10. Pvt. Roy B. Harmon, Army, November 5. PFC Joseph P. Henry, Army, November 26. PFC Joseph E. Johnston, Army, November 10.

	PFC Eugene G. Leider, Army, November 19.
	PFC Patrick McEnery, Army, November 13.
	Pvt. Conrad P. Mistle, Army, November 23.
	Pvt. Lonnie Murdock, Army, November 8.
	Pvt. Charles R. Rother, Army, November 8.
	Sgt. Edward R. Vydra, Army, November 10.
	Pvt. Raymond Wright, Jr., Army, November 5.
Iroquois	PFC Dean M. Ash, Army, November 5.
Lake	PFC David A. Crawford, Army, November 9.
Madison	Pvt. William C. Ficor, Army, November 22. Sgt. Tony A. Neeley, Army, November 13.
Montgomery	Pvt. Maurice N. Brengard, Army, November 5.
Peoria	Pvt. Donald R. Nullmeyer, Army, November 5.
St. Clair	PFC Robert S. Cathcart, Army, November 24.
Saline	Sgt. Carroll W. Payne, Army, November 3.
Sangamon	Cpl. John C. Kerska, Army, November 5.
Schuyler	PFC Wilbur E. Utter, Army, November 2.
Tazewell	Cpl. Wilford H. Williams, Army, November 6.

Key events during the Korean War November 1951

November 1951 in Korea began much as October had ended, with the two protagonists locked in deadly combat along an increasingly entrenched line that coursed its way across the center of the Korean peninsula. On November 12, General Matthew Ridgway directed General James Van Fleet to cease offensive operations and begin an “active” defense. Meanwhile, the recently-resumed armistice talks at Panmunjom dragged on. Finally, on November 27, following months of wrangling, both sides agreed on a line of demarcation along the front lines, roughly corresponding to the 38th Parallel, and almost immediately military operations slowed down. Clashes between small units would continue during this second winter of the Korean War, adding fresh casualties to the already staggering human toll of the war. All the while, the troops kept a hopeful eye on Panmunjom.

By November, the old hands that had so valiantly fought the bitter battles during the first year of the war were gone, replaced by green recruits fresh out of basic training and troops transferring in from every corner of the globe. The Pentagon had to play a

careful balancing act, since the top brass still saw Europe and the massive Soviet military as America's prime threat. The draft provided a steady flow of fresh recruits for the nation's far-flung military, however, and new arrivals to Korea immediately started counting the number of "points" they needed to earn in order to go home. The goal was 36, with those in the trenches earning four per month.

On November 30, in a rare battle with Communist bombers, 31 U.S. Sabre jets shot down twelve Soviet-made aircraft, including eight Tu-2 Bombers, three La-9 propeller-driven fighters, and one MiG-15 fighter jet.

Illinois Korean War Memorial

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is located in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, the same cemetery that contains the Lincoln Tomb. Oak Ridge is the nation's second most visited burial ground behind only Arlington National Cemetery.

Dedicated on June 16, 1996, the memorial consists of a 12-foot-tall bronze bell mounted on a granite base. At the circumference of the base are four niches, each with a larger-than-life figure representing a branch of the armed services. Inscribed on the base are the 1,754 names of Illinoisans killed in Korea.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and may be visited daily free of charge.

Korean War Veterans Oral History Project Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's Oral History Program offers "Veterans Remember," a collection of interviews with Illinois residents about their wartime experiences, at the Library's website, www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html. The audio interviews concern the experiences of Illinois veterans who fought in several conflicts, including the Korean War, as well as the experiences of those on the home front. Visitors to the website can listen to or watch the interviews in their entirety. Several of the interviews have transcripts, and most have still images as well.

Website visitors will need a computer capable of playing MP3 audio files or MPG compressed video files in order to listen to the interviews. The transcripts and still images are also accessible. Volunteers conducted and edited many of the interviews and developed the transcripts that accompany them.

Korean War National Museum

The Korean War National Museum (KWNM) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with a new Board of Directors, new professional staff, and a renewed focus on getting a world-class museum built now, in the lifetime of the Korean War veterans. Recent news media reports outlined a proposal of the KWNM to obtain 7,000 square feet of prime space on Navy Pier in Chicago for a state-of-the-art, world-class museum where visitors could come to honor and learn about the service and sacrifices of the Americans, South Koreans and their UN Allies in the "forgotten victory." Those plans are continuing to be developed, and the KWNM hopes to be able to share some

exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center, located at 9 South Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. The KWNM welcomes donations of photographs, documents, diaries, and artifacts of those who served in the Korean War. To learn more about the KWNM, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.kwnm.org or look for the Museum Facebook.

Korean War Booklet

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association, an all-volunteer organization, has published a booklet, *A Brief History of the Korean War*, copies of which have been provided free of charge to public libraries, high schools and junior high schools in Illinois. Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a \$10 check or money order to: Illinois Korean Memorial Association, P.O. Box 8554, Springfield, IL 62791.

Tax deductible donations are welcome. One hundred percent of all donations go to the book project and to the upkeep of the Illinois Korean War Memorial.

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